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and



What is claimed is:

| | 1. | A method for securing an access provider, the method comprising: |
|--------|---------|---|
| | monit | oring communications with at least one access provider for a partially- |
| comple | eted co | nnection transaction; and |

terminating the partially-completed connection transaction when the partiallycompleted connection transaction remains in existence for a period of time that exceeds a threshold period of time.

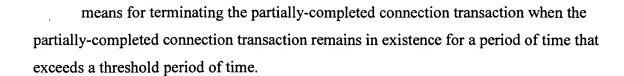
2. The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises: detecting partially-completed connection transactions initiated by an access requestor;

measuring the period of time that a partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence.

- 3. The method as in claim 2, wherein the monitoring further comprises comparing the period of time with the threshold period of time.
- 4. The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction and the access requestor subsequently fails to send a reply.
- 5. The method as in claim 4, wherein the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction based on a return address that differs from an actual return address of the access requestor.
- 6. The method as in claim 5, wherein the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed connection transactions wherein the return address is an Internet protocol address that differs from the actual return address of the access requestor.
- 7. The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring communications with the at least one access provider based on TCP communications for partially-completed connection transactions.

| 8. The method as in claim 7, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring | ; a |
|---|-----|
| process whereby an access requestor sends a SYN request and the at least one access | |
| provider sends a SYN acknowledgement. | |

- 9. The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring communications with a plurality of access providers for partially-completed connection transactions.
- 10. The method as in claim 1, wherein the terminating comprises resetting a communication port located on the at least one access provider.
- 11. The method as in claim 1, wherein the threshold period of time is configurable such that the terminating comprises terminating the partially-completed connection transaction when the partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence for a period of time that exceeds a configurable threshold period of time.
- 12. The method as in claim 2, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access provider is a host such that the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed connection transactions between at least one client and at least one host.
- 13. The method as in claim 2, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access provider is a host such that the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed connection transactions between at least one client and a plurality of hosts.
- 14. The method as in claim 2, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access provider is a host such that the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed connection transactions between a plurality of clients and at least one host.
- 15. A system for securing an access provider, comprising:
 means for monitoring communications with at least one access provider for a
 partially-completed connection transaction; and

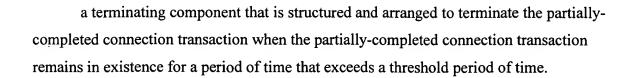


16. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for monitoring comprises: means for detecting partially-completed connection transactions initiated by an access requestor;

means for measuring the period of time that a partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence; and

means for comparing the period of time with the threshold period of time.

- 17. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for monitoring comprises means for detecting partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction and the access requestor subsequently fails to send a reply.
- 18. The system of claim 17, wherein the means for monitoring comprises means for detecting partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction based on a return address that differs from an actual return address of the access requestor.
- 19. The system of claim 15, wherein the means for monitoring comprises means for monitoring communications with the at least one access provider based on TCP communications for partially-completed connection transactions whereby an access requestor sends a SYN request and the at least one access provider sends a SYN acknowledgement.
- 20. The system of claim 16, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access provider is a host such that the means for monitoring comprises means for detecting partially-completed connection transactions between at least one client and at least one host.
- 21. A system for securing an access provider, comprising:
 a monitoring component that is structured and arranged to monitor communications
 with at least one access provider for a partially-completed connection transaction; and

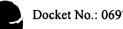


- 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component comprises:
 a detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed
 connection transactions initiated by an access requestor; and
 a measuring component that is structured and arranged to measure the period of time
 that a partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence.
- 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the monitoring component further comprises a comparing component that is structured and arranged to compare the period of time with the threshold period of time.
- 24. The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component comprises a detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction and the access requestor subsequently fails to send a reply.
- 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the monitoring component comprises a detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction based on a return address that differs from an actual return address of the access requestor.
- 26. The system of claim 25, wherein the monitoring component comprises a detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions wherein the return address is an Internet protocol address that differs from the actual return address of the access requestor.
- 27. The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component is structured and arranged to monitor communications with the at least one access provider based on TCP communications for partially-completed connection transactions.

- The system of claim 27, wherein the monitoring component is structured and arranged to monitor a process whereby an access requestor sends a SYN request and the at least one access provider sends a SYN acknowledgement.
 - 29. The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component is structured and arranged to monitor communications with a plurality of access providers for partially-completed connection transactions.
 - 30. The system of claim 21, wherein the terminating component comprises a reset component that is structured and arranged to reset a communication port located on the at least one access provider.
 - 31. The system of claim 21, wherein the threshold period of time is a configurable threshold period of time.
 - 32. The system of claim 22, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access provider is a host such that the monitoring component comprises a detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions between at least one client and at least one host.
 - 33. The system of claim 22, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access provider is a host such that the monitoring component comprises a detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions between at least one client and a plurality of hosts.
 - 34. The system of claim 22, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access provider is a host such that the monitoring component comprises a detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions between a plurality of clients and at least one host.

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- 35. The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component and the terminating component are included in a switch that receives communications from a host computer system.
- 36. The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component and the 1 terminating component are included in a host computer system that receives communications 2 from a switch. 3